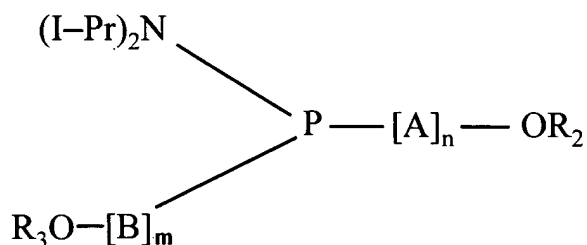


### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown below, without prejudice or disclaimer. This claim listing replaces all prior versions and listings.

1. – 69. Cancelled

70. (New) A compound of the formula:



wherein

A is selected from the group consisting of  $\text{-(OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{)-}$ ,  $\text{-(OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{)-}$ , and grafted-  
 $\text{(OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{)}_{n1}\text{-(OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{)}_{n2}\text{-}$ ;

B is selected from the group consisting of  $\text{-(OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{)-}$ ,  $\text{-(OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{)-}$ , and grafted-  
 $\text{(OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{)}_{m1}\text{-(OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{)}_{m2}\text{-}$ ;

n is 0 – 50;

n1 is 0 -50;

n2 is 0 – 50;

m is 0 – 50;

m1 is 0 – 50;

m2 is 0 – 50;

I-Pr is isopropyl;

R<sub>2</sub> is selected from the group consisting of H,  $\text{-CH}_3$ , alkyl, phenyl,  $\text{-CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CN}$ , and  $\text{-CONH}_2$ ;

R<sub>3</sub> is selected from the group consisting of H,  $\text{-CH}_3$ , alkyl, phenyl,  $\text{-CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CN}$ , and  $\text{-CONH}_2$ ;

71. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein n is 0 – 20, m is 0 – 20, n<sub>1</sub> is 0 – 20; n<sub>2</sub> is 0 – 20; m<sub>1</sub> is 0 – 20 and m<sub>2</sub> is 0 – 20.

72. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein A is  $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$ , n is 1; m is 0; and, R<sub>3</sub> is  $-CH_2CH_2CN$ .

73. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein A is  $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$ , n is 2; m is 0; and, R<sub>3</sub> is  $-CH_2CH_2CN$ .

74. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein A is  $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$ ; n is 3-20; m is 0; and, R<sub>3</sub> is  $-CH_2CH_2CN$ .

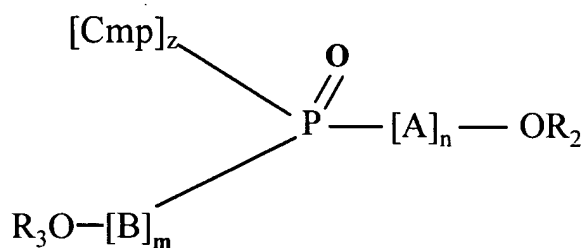
75. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein A is selected from the group consisting of  $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$ ,  $-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)-$ , and grafted  $-(OCH_2CH_2)_{n1}-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)_{n2}-$ ; n is at least 1; m is 0; and, R<sub>3</sub> is  $-CH_2CH_2CN$ .

76. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein A is selected from the group consisting of  $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$ ,  $-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)-$ , and grafted  $-(OCH_2CH_2)_{n1}-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)_{n2}-$ ; B selected from the group consisting of  $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$ ,  $-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)-$ , and grafted  $-(OCH_2CH_2)_{n1}-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)_{n2}-$ ; n is 1 – 50; n<sub>1</sub> is 1 – 50; n<sub>2</sub> is 1 – 50; m is 1 – 50; m<sub>1</sub> is 1 – 50; and, m<sub>2</sub> is 1 – 50.

77. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein A is  $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$ ; B is  $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$ ; n is 2; m is 2;  $R_2$  is  $CH_3$ , or  $CH_2CH_3$ ; and,  $R_3$  is  $CH_3$ , or  $CH_2CH_3$

78. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein A is  $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$ ; B is  $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$ ; n is 3-20 and m is 3-20;  $R_2$  is  $CH_3$ , or  $CH_2CH_3$ ; and,  $R_3$  is  $CH_3$ , or  $CH_2CH_3$ .

79. (New) The compound of the formula:



wherein Cmp is selected from the group consisting of a nucleoside, a nucleotide, an amino acid, a carbohydrate, an oligonucleotide, a peptide, and an oligosaccharide;

A is selected from the group consisting of  $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$ ,  $-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)-$ , and grafted  $-(OCH_2CH_2)_{n1}-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)_{n2}-$ ;

B is selected from the group consisting of  $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$ ,  $-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)-$ , and grafted  $-(OCH_2CH_2)_{m1}-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)_{m2}-$ ;

n is 0 - 50;

$n_1$  is 0 - 50;

$n_2$  is 0 - 50;

m is 0-50

$m_1$  is 0 - 50;

m<sub>2</sub> is 0 - 50;

z is at least 1;

R<sub>2</sub> is selected from the group consisting of H, -CH<sub>3</sub>, alkyl, phenyl, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CN, and -CONH<sub>2</sub>;

and,

R<sub>3</sub> is selected from the group consisting of H, -CH<sub>3</sub>, alkyl, phenyl, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CN, and -CONH<sub>2</sub>.

80. (New) The compound of claim 79 wherein n is 0 - 20; m is 0 - 20; n<sub>1</sub> is 0 - 20; n<sub>2</sub> is 0 - 20; m<sub>1</sub> is 0 - 20; and, m<sub>2</sub> is 0 - 20;

81. (New) The compound of claim 79 wherein Cmp is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 5'-O bond to the phosphorous; and, z is 1 - 15.

82. (New) The compound of claim 79 wherein Cmp is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 5'-O bond to the phosphorous; and, z is 1-30.

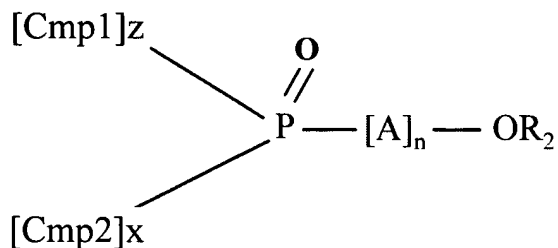
83. (New) The compound of claim 79 wherein Cmp is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 5'-O bond to the phosphorous; and, z is 1-100.

84. (New) The compound of claim 79 wherein Cmp is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 3'-O bond to the phosphorous; and, z is 1-15.

85. (New) The compound of claim 79 wherein Cmp is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 3'-O bond to the phosphorous; and, z is 1-30.

86. (New) The compound of claim 79 wherein Cmp is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 3'-O bond to the phosphorous; and, z is 1-100.

87. (New) The compound of the formula:



wherein Cmp1 is selected from the group consisting of a nucleoside, a nucleotide, an amino acid, a carbohydrate, an oligonucleotide, a peptide, and an oligosaccharide;

Cmp2 is selected from the group consisting of nucleoside, a nucleotide, an amino acid, a carbohydrate, an oligonucleotide, a peptide, and an oligosaccharide;

A is selected from the group consisting of  $\text{-(OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{)-}$ ,  $\text{-(OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{)-}$ , and grafted  $\text{-(OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{)}_{n1}\text{-(OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{)}_{n2}\text{-}$ ;

n is 0 - 50;

n1 is 0 - 50;

n2 is 0 - 50;

x is at least 1;

z is at least 1; and,

R<sub>2</sub> is selected from the group consisting of H,  $\text{-CH}_3$ , alkyl, phenyl,  $\text{-CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CN}$ , and  $\text{-CONH}_2$ .

88. (New) The compound of claim 87 wherein n is 0 – 20; n1 is 0 – 20; and, n2 is 0 – 20.

89. (New) The compound of claim 87 wherein Cmp1 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 3'-O bond to the phosphorous; Cmp2 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 5'-O bond to the phosphorous; z is at least 1; and, x is at least 1.

90. (New) The compound of claim 87 wherein Cmp1 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 3'-O bond to the phosphorous; Cmp2 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 5'-O bond to the phosphorous; z is 1-50; and, x is 1-50.

91. (New) The compound of claim 87 wherein Cmp1 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 3'-O bond to the phosphorous; Cmp2 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 3'-O bond to the phosphorous; z is 1-50; and, x is 1-50.

92. (New) The compound of claim 87 wherein Cmp1 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 5'-O bond to the phosphorous; Cmp2 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 5'-O bond to the phosphorous; z is 1-50; and, x is 1-50.